

I am the child whose mother and father left them in an orphanage because they couldn't handle the responsibility;

I am the person peering over the edge of a building considering to jump off because life is too hard to live;

I am the soldier in Iraq who gets killed by a road-side bomb fighting for the United States of America;

I am the little kid in Africa with HIV fighting to live without food or water on their own.

I am the person holding out my hand to the homeless man on main street giving him my spare change;

I am the new family to the child in the orphanage who I have just adopted;

I am the arm that pulls the person peering over the edge backwards to the thing we call 'hope';

I am the person who jumps in front of bullets to save our troops in Iraq because every person in this world means something;

I am the cure for HIV and I have just gone into the little child in Africa along with food and water;

I am each and every one of you who cares about others."

**PINECREST SINGERS RECEIVE  
NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to recognize some singers from Moore County in our district who won a national competition. Because of the quality of performance of the Pinecrest High School Chamber Ensemble and Sotto Voce last year in San Francisco, both choral groups were able to participate in this year's Heritage's "Festival of Gold" National Choral Competition at Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

They were competing against 21 other high schools from across the nation and both groups took first place in their respective divisions. The scoring was determined by three reputable judges in the world of choral music and based out of 100 possible points. Out of these Pinecrest's 30 member Sotto Voce received an average of 95.33 points, placing them in first place in the Women's Choir division.

Participating in the Sotto Voce division were Paige Baker, Keyvietta Baldwin, Braylin Bayless, Lauren Bonville, Casey Cooper, Ashlee Covington, Brittany Cullifer, Leah Dannelley, Kate Davis, Kelcie Frye, Caroline Gallagher, Erin Hennings, Ginni Holderfield, Lynn Hollyfield, Alease Jeffries, Auriel Jeffries, Haley Johnson, Ruth Jones, Dani Mayo, Gina Mendence, Kelly Nelson, Alexis Oxendine, Catherine Pittman, Michelle Porter, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn, Lindsay von Gal, Chelsi Wright, Joanne Wu, Haley Yarborough, and Elise Zawatter.

The Chamber Ensemble, with an average of 96.33, took first place as well in the Chamber Choir division. Singing in the Chamber Ensemble were Braylin Bayless, Kevin Bean, Jonathan Blue, Spencer Bowman, Lia Brazile, Matt Carriker, Rashad Covington, Tolisha Covington, Brittany Cullifer, Leah Dannelley,

Sarah Floyd, Adam Fogleman, Caroline Gallagher, Bradley Gibson, Matt Hazzard, Tyler Herbst, Alease Jeffries, Jordan Kennedy, Kelsey Leach, Kelcey Ledbetter, Le'Quita McKoy, Taylor Miles, Whitney Moore, Brenton O'Hara, Catherine Pittman, Michelle Porter, Aaron Shamberger, Ravon Sheppard, Amanda Smith, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn, James Villone, and Josh Warthen. Pinecrest High Choral Director James Brown told The Sandhills Pulse, "This performance in Chicago solidifies just how talented and dedicated my students are in the Choral Program at Pinecrest . . . we graced each performance with intensity, passion and extreme professionalism."

In addition to the competition, a number of students were involved in an Honors Choir that was made up of selected members from all of the participating choirs. These students were responsible for learning four pieces on their own prior to arriving in Chicago and performed under the baton of Dr. Anton Armstrong, conductor of the St. Olaf Choir. The students participating in the Honors Choir from Pinecrest were Lauren Bonville, Matt Carriker, Ashlee Covinton, Kate Davis, Kelcie Frye, Caroline Gallagher, Bradley Gibson, Erin Hennings, Alease Jeffries, Auriel Jeffries, Ruth Jones, Brenton O' Hara, Alexis Oxendine, Rachel Stewart, Stephanie Vaughn and James Villone. Brown also told The Sandhills Pulse, "This year's tour will be one of my most memorable because of all aspects: my first group of graduation seniors who worked with me throughout their entire high school choral experience, fantastic chaperones and phenomenal accompanists."

Again, we are proud to report that the Sixth District is home to these outstanding young singers.

**THE DAILY 45: CURTIS HOLDEN**

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Yesterday, in Oakland, California, two men were shot and killed in separate incidents. My heart goes out to the family of 35-year-old Curtis Holden. My heart also goes out to the other victim, whose name was not immediately released. There have been 55 homicides so far this year in the city of Oakland.

How do we explain these senseless killings to our children? We must replace the culture of violence with a culture of peace.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will Americans say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

**REAFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE  
GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON  
UNDER PRIME MINISTER FOUAD  
SINIORA**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, although I support the legitimate Government of Lebanon, I could not support H. Res. 1194 because it contains language calling upon the United States "to immediately take all appropriate actions to support and strengthen" the current Government of Lebanon.

I believe this wording is unnecessarily broad and could be construed by some to implicitly endorse military action against any state or organization that this administration deems a threat to the Lebanese government. Because the resolution does not expressly exclude the use of force as one of the "appropriate actions" to be taken by the United States, I was not able to support it.

**HONORING DUBUQUE SENIOR HIGH  
CHAMPION SWIMMER JORDON  
HUFF**

**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2008*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding results achieved by Dubuque Senior High School swimmer Jordan Huff in the 2007-2008 season. This year Jordan won two individual State championship events. Jordan captured titles in the 200-yard freestyle and the 100-yard freestyle.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Jordan and the Dubuque Senior High School Boys Swimming Team, both in and out of the pool. Perhaps Paul "Bear" Bryant—the late, great coach of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team—said it best: "Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself." This year, Dubuque Senior High School proved just that.

**HONORING DAVID COOK**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday May 22, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David Roland Cook of Blue Springs, Missouri, for the great achievement of winning the 7th season of American Idol.

For the past 7 years, tens of thousands of Idol hopefuls from across the Nation auditioned for a shot at being the next American Idol. David started his journey by traveling from Blue Springs to the regional auditions in Omaha, Nebraska where he impressed the judges with his version of Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer." David's performance earned him a trip to Hollywood to compete on the show.